Castro Bars Departure Of Males of Draft Age

Reuters

HAVANA, Oct. 22—Premier Castro has banned all males of ages 17 to 27 from leaving Cuba as refugees for the United States.

Castro, speaking last night at the inauguration of the national games—at the fifth anniversary of the Union of Young Communists foundding—said the youths would be used as "cannon fodder" by imperialism.

He declared "we know that imperialism recruits boys of military age and sends them to Vietnam and Santo Domingo and we are not prepared to supply cannon fodder to these enemies of the people."

Referring to the general departure of refugees, Castro said: "Those who do not wish to live under socialism, under our new society . . . We do not expel them, we expel no one, we give them full facilities to leave.

"Our aim is to form a truly free society of socialist men and women, of revolutionary men and women, of Communist men and women. "Within a few years there will be no counter-revolutionaries . . ."

Negotiations betwee Cuba and the U.S. via the Swiss embassy, have been continuing on the departure of refugees who at present are leaving the island in small launches. According to sources here the aim is to replace this method by airlift to Miami.

Castro made no mention about technicians or doctors being prevented from leaving, though there have been persistent rumors. Usually reliable sources said technicians in some state enterpries were being asked to swear to stay for five years or else quit at once. However, there was no official comment available on this.

Castro also painted a rosy picture of Cuban sports prospects saying that "in the 1972 Olympics the world will have to reckon with Cuba."

(Castro said Cuba will insist on participating in the Central American games scheduled soon in San Juan, P.R., United Press International reported. "We know the U.S. Government said it won't give us visas," he said, "but it also is knwon that in this matter the International Olympic Committee has . . . declared that if Cuba is not allowed to participate Puerto Rico cannot be the site of the games.")